

## **WEST LAKE LANDFILL, BRIDGETON, MISSOURI**

**QUESTION:** What is EPA doing about the landfill fire or “subsurface smoldering event” at West Lake?

### **ANSWER:**

- The fire at West Lake is occurring underground in a waste disposal cell that does not contain radiological waste. The waste disposal cell is part of a landfill permitted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). As the sole regulatory authority for this waste disposal cell MDNR is responsible for responding to the landfill fire.
- EPA and MDNR communicate regularly on the status of the fire and with the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) that are responsible for cleanup of nearby waste disposal cells that contain radiological waste.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- The landfill fire was first discovered in December 2010 and reported to MDNR and the EPA.
- The landfill fire began to receive extensive press coverage in late 2012 when odors from the fire increased and began to generate complaints from local residents and businesses.
- The landfill fire area is more than 1,000 feet from the nearest area where radiological waste is located.
- Questions received on this and related issues from Senators Claire McCaskill (MO-D) and Roy Blunt (MO-R), Representatives William Lacy Clay (MO-D) and Ann Wagner (MO-R).

### **RESOURCES:**

The site is PRP-lead, meaning that the PRPs (including the U.S. Department of Energy) are paying for the additional studies and site work, and are reimbursing EPA staff for its time in overseeing the work.